

in this Preliminary Amendment are made without prejudice, so that the matter deleted may be reintroduced as necessary for prosecution of the application.

**Summary and Conclusion:**

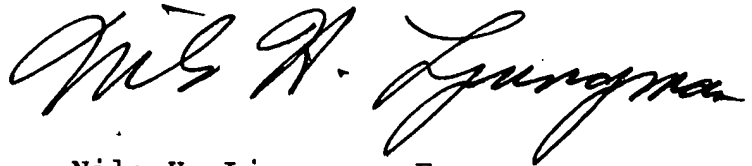
It is submitted that Applicants have provided a new and unique COVALENTLY CLOSED NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES FOR IMMUNOSTIMULATION. It is submitted that the claims, as now presented, are fully distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date.

If mailed, I, the person signing this certification below, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated in the certification of mailing on the transmittal letter sent herewith, or if facsimile transmitted, I, the person signing this certification below, hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated in the certification of facsimile

BEST COPY

transmission on the transmittal letter which is being facsimile  
transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nils H. Ljungman".

Nils H. Ljungman, Esq.  
Attorney for Applicant[s]  
Reg. No. 25,997  
Name of person signing certification  
Nils H. Ljungman & Associates  
P.O. Box 130  
Greensburg, PA 15601-0130  
Telephone: (724) 836-2305  
Facsimile: (724) 836-2313